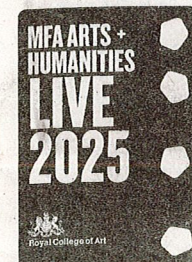


DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED BY

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Oare Gunpowder Works
Country Park

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Cement Fields
New Art North Kent

FORCES

of

NATURE

Event Plan and Site-Map



Welcome to the Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park. We, Forces of Nature, have assembled a gathering of artwork and workshops for you. Each one examines the layers of meaning and memory this place holds in its landscape.

We are a collective of students from the Royal College of Art's MFA Arts and Humanities program. When Cement Fields invited us to create work at the site, we immediately felt an immense sense of responsibility. Our first meetings were full of questions of how to honor this site not only as guests on the land and in this community, but also how to honor it as hosts on the land, creating new community.

Through our research, site visits, and conversations, we excavated the layers of the Oare Gunpowder Works. For 300 years, from the 17th century until 1936 the Works was an industrial site that produced a weapon that was used to kill and destroy. But it was also a site where people worked everyday, made their livelihoods, and found community. Today, the site bears evidence of its darker past through its ruins, but it also is a nature park where plants and animals make a home and people find quiet, volunteer hours of care, and take their children to play.

So, welcome to the Oare Gunpowder Works. Today, on 15th of March 2025, we transform this place again into a place to gather, to think together, and to make together, to be together.

Sincerely,
Forces of Nature

With special thanks to Kris Staples, Cement Fields, Ben Judd, Brian Dillon, Adam Chodzko, and Amanda Thesinger.

1 Visitor Center

833 Steve and Ryan

833 is a short film about the explosion at Uplees near Faversham. The work depicts the experience of an individual exploring the Oare Gunpowder Works, remembering the explosion, and the lives that were lost.

Ghost in the Shell - A Journey Through Faversham Alice Jiang

Faversham breathes in stillness—where the air carries whispers of time, and water remembers footsteps long gone. From the quiet roadside pond, where reeds bend to secrets only the wind can hear, to the vast stretch of sea where the sun sinks, spilling gold onto the horizon—this zine is a collection of echoes, a dialogue between past and present.

2 Robin Picnic Tables

Nature Art Workshops Anna Outdoors
11:00 am-2:00 pm

Join Anna Outdoors for a free drop in workshop. Enjoy making sun prints, pine cone moths, elder snakes and lots of other nature themed arts and crafts. Activities will take place next to the visitor centre.

3 The Glazing House

Words of Water Creative Writing Workshop Angele Lautier
11:30am -12:45pm & 1:30pm-2:45pm

Let's explore the concept of water as a host or a guest. We will share language used for the various surrounding bodies of water; their uses, sounds, movements and more. The poems, letters and short stories that we write, will be folded into paper boats and set to float away.

4 The Test Range

Roots Run Deep Salomé Souag

A site-specific work that investigates the land we are standing on right now and its politics in relation to colonization, exploitation and neocolonial militarism. Roots Run Deep traces and investigates the history of the Sycamore and Sequoia tree in relation to the expansion of the empire and the roots of our ecological crises where the long and overlapping histories of natural history, slavery, and racism come together. This work reconstructs erased Indigenous history and language through countermapping.

5 Sycamore Gallery

Ruins reclaimed: Tree creatures by water; Light on a blast wall

Rosie Sayeun

These are from a series of photographs taken in Autumn last year. Heavily pregnant whilst also taking care of my one-year-old daughter, I was unable to stray very far from my house. I was exhausted but very alert to the details of my surroundings, and wanted to be outdoors a lot. The park is a place where structures and stories of destruction meet with nature, and during that Autumn it was one of the few places nearby where I could still go for a walk. I started taking black and white photographs on these walks, with my daughter watching on from her pushchair.

6 The Coming House

Spirit House Chris Kittisakul

The land is scarred, the spirits weary. Migrant souls search for a place to rest. History fades, but its spirits call to be remembered.

7 The Leats Gallery

Resonance Unfading Evelyn Hu

At the Kent gunpowder site, a wild chime of stone and copper tubes resonates in the wind. A stone from the site, alongside Rhine River fragments, carries echoes of war and time. As the wind moves, copper tubes strike the stone, producing a sound that bridges past, present, and future. No longer silent, the stone speaks through vibrations, reminding us that war's remnants do not fade—they continue to echo, shaping our present and resonating into the future. Follow the wind chimes you hear to find out where it is.

8 Hawthorne Picnic Tables

Touch Amanda Thesiger
11-1 pm & 2-4:30 pm

Our first sense is touch: it is an instinctive urge which becomes more complex as we age. Responding to the tactile nature of the gunpowder works, this drop-in workshop encourages participants to make careful contact with the different surfaces they find around the site, natural and man-made. Using handfuls of pressed clay to take imprints, and printing inks to add colour, we can use the charged surface of these 'in-between' recipient surfaces to transfer images onto simple books to take home. Each print will also be added to a large, collaborative frieze: an artwork that will grow during the day. By collating the prints, they become a kind of language or series of signs.

11 Lower Mill Pond

Labor Intensive (feat. charcoal) Matthew Kellison
All Day

Have you ever heard nature speak? Through the wind, the water, the stone... Nature is a recording, waiting to be heard. Join us for an interactive sound experience at the Wetland Interpretation Centre. Stepping into a world where rippling water whispers forgotten stories, where birds sing out the ancient melodies, where every footstep, every breath, becomes part of the soundscape. Listen closely, talk to it. What will nature reveal to you?

10 The Mill Room

Whisper of the Nature Junhan Zhu, Jude Stanley Crisostomo, Mengyuan Tong

Three vessels, peppered with dust dried from the silt that connects the marshes and the Swale, their forms translating ancient ceremonies through the contemporary landscape: punctured with thirstful openings, calling to the wetlands. Clay, that primal material of earth and fire, making and exchange, invites reflection on how we come together to consume, and how the landscape consumes us. The product of evening walks from Hardy Ferry's pools, these little wells dotted across the marshes open like so many quiet echoes of ceremony.

9 The Mill

Moored Together Rebecca Truscott-Elves

nearby Romano-Celtic temple, carried through time with traces of consumption, together by ancient thought-forms preserved in ceremonial vessels found at a

12 The Oil Tank

Pall Amanda Thesiger in collaboration with Tim Meacham

Pall is a suspended, soft sculpture that evokes a transient presence amongst the ruins and trees of the gunpowder works. The oil tank held great resonance and potential for contrast. It seemed a place of release. The form evokes perhaps a pall of smoke following an explosion, but it also might embody more natural phenomena: a cloud of vapour, a plume of spores, a swarm of insects.

13 The Marsh

Fallow/Pause/Bloom Vanessa Clardge

This playful installation transforms a vintage beach windbreak into a vibrant meditation on cycles of rest and renewal. The familiar striped fabric—a quintessential piece of Kent's seaside culture—creates an unexpected moment of joy amid the historical gunpowder works. Hand-printed with "Fallow I Pause I Bloom," it invites reflection on how both landscapes and creativity require periods of dormancy before flourishing again. The bright orange and red stripes stand in deliberate contrast to the industrial remnants, creating a temporary sanctuary that speaks to the site's transformation. Like the landscape itself, the windbreak suggests that periods of faltness and pause are essential precursors to new growth and possibilities.

14 The Cauldron

Seeds of Change Fiona Morehouse & Cotton Kemp
All Day

Can you see the seeds settling into the earth beneath your feet? What does it feel like to embody the past and the future at the same time? Can you imagine their becoming? Join us on an 8 minute journey inside the life of a seed where you can travel through time and space to the heartbeat of this place. This immersive experience will be available to one person at a time all day. You will be invited to enter inside the sculpture (protective clothing will be provided).

15 Black Alder Gallery

Haunting Jude Crisostomo
Haunted by the past, we are ghosts. Drifting endlessly, never touching ground. Mistakes we knew we were making—our loss. Steadfast mother, we bow down. We are ghosts; the world is not ours. This series of cyanotype prints on fabric explores the delicate coexistence between humanity and nature. As societies progress, nature adapts, resists, and purges. Decay is inevitable—and it is beautiful. These artworks will be intentionally placed in the woods, left to weather and deteriorate over time.

All Day

Play Workshop Salomé and friends

All day workshop to play with natural pigments and organic materials.

Treasure Hunting: Look for the Yellow Invitations

While walking through Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park, you might come across yellow letters hanging from the trees. There is another letter, identical to the one you unfolded, placed outside the park in front of someone's house. The homeowner may have discovered and taken it, or it might have simply been discarded unnoticed. You may or may not realize that the image printed on it is the same as the one you saw in the Visitor Center. You may or may not feel that you are standing in the same place as the people or buildings in the photographs from 100 years ago. With everything remaining vague, we can only imagine our connection with others.

@Nessaspice.
Materials: Weathered sweet chestnut branch & Red Cornus (dogwood)

*Can you count how many round shapes you can see?
*If these twisty branches could sing, what would they sound like?
*If you made a nest from sticks, what colours would you choose?

Materials: Weathered sweet chestnut branch & Red Cornus (dogwood)

and growth.

Cornus Chorus II explores the delicate relationship between land-based

industry & environmental preservation, challenging the notion that our presence

in the natural world is inherently destructive. Created from two years of

harvested treeform woven cornus(dogwood) withies, the distinct red and

yellow colours showcase the natural variation in the dogwood. The artwork

adopts an aged sweet chestnut branch as a representation of the enduring

resilience of nature, while the woven cornus globes symbolise cyclical renewal

and growth.

*Can you count how many round shapes you can see?

*If these twisty branches could sing, what would they sound like?

*If you made a nest from sticks, what colours would you choose?

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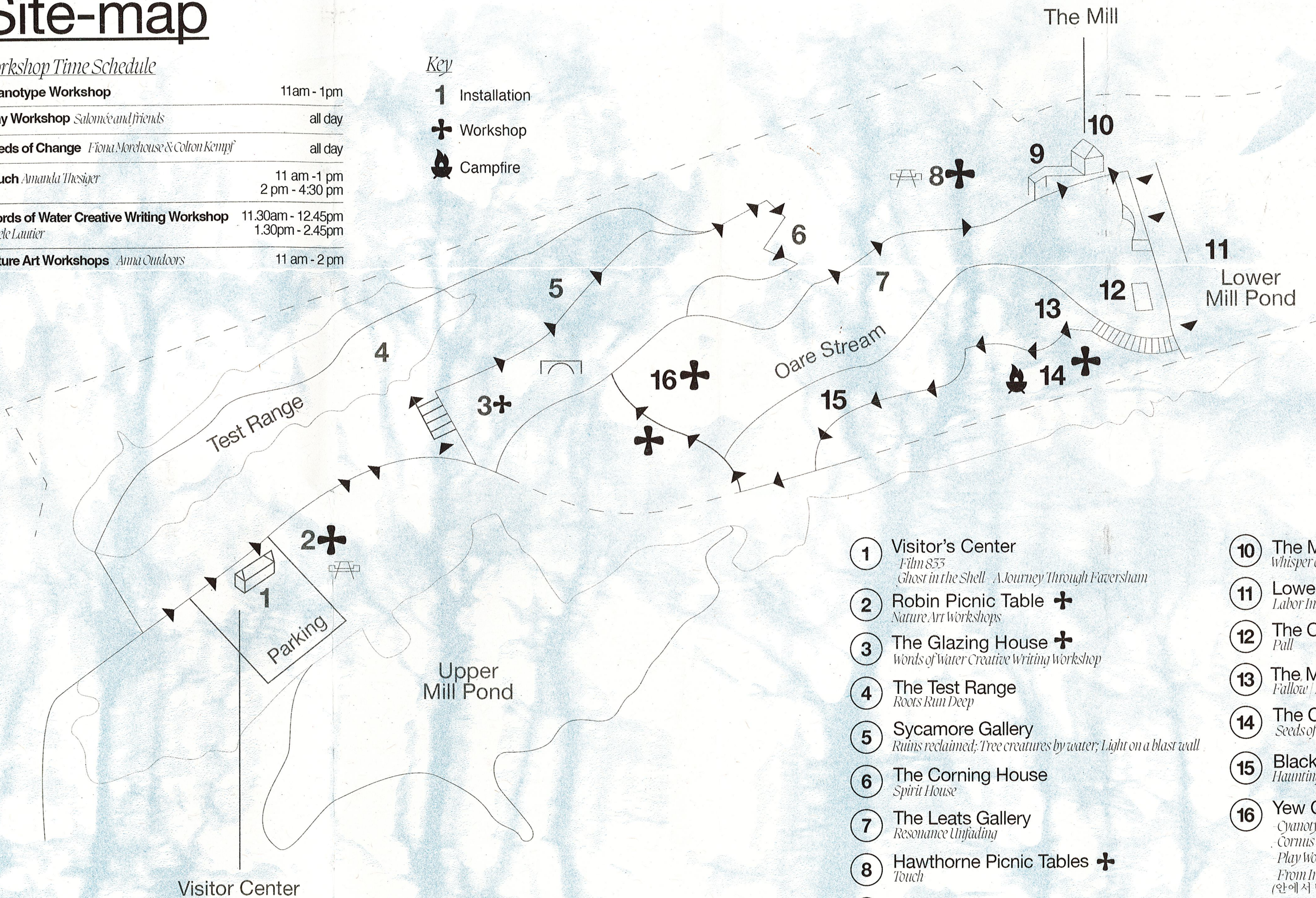
Site-map

Workshop Time Schedule

Cyanotype Workshop	11am - 1pm
Play Workshop <i>Salomé and friends</i>	all day
Seeds of Change <i>Fiona Morehouse & Colton Kempf</i>	all day
Touch <i>Amanda Thesiger</i>	11 am - 1 pm 2 pm - 4:30 pm
Words of Water Creative Writing Workshop <i>Angele Lautier</i>	11.30am - 12.45pm 1.30pm - 2.45pm
Nature Art Workshops <i>Anna Outdoors</i>	11 am - 2 pm

Key

- 1 Installation
- + Workshop
- 🔥 Campfire



- 1 Visitor's Center
*Film 853
Ghost in the Shell - A Journey Through Faversham*
- 2 Robin Picnic Table +
Nature Art Workshops
- 3 The Glazing House +
Words of Water Creative Writing Workshop
- 4 The Test Range
Roots Run Deep
- 5 Sycamore Gallery
Ruins reclaimed; Tree creatures by water; Light on a blast wall
- 6 The Corning House
Spirit House
- 7 The Leats Gallery
Resonance Unfading
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Touch
- 9 The Mill
Moored Together
- 10 The Mill Room
Whisper of the Nature
- 11 Lower Mill Pond
Labor Intensive (feat. charcoal)
- 12 The Oil Tank
Pall
- 13 The Marsh
Fallow / Pause / Bloom
- 14 The Cauldron +
Seeds of Change
- 15 Black Alder Gallery
Haunting
- 16 Yew Clearing
*Cyanotype Workshop
Cornus Chorus II
Play Workshop
From Inside to Outside to Inside
(안에서 밖에서 안으로)*